Quarterly Population Report

Second Quarter 2015

Despite easing growth, Alberta still leads the provinces[1]

In the face of plunging oil prices and an economic downturn, Alberta retained its title as the fastest growing province in the second quarter of 2015. However, population growth continued to slow off of the highs of the past few years, on slowing economic activity and the effects of the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) policy changes. Natural increase continued to make a large contribution to growth in the second quarter.

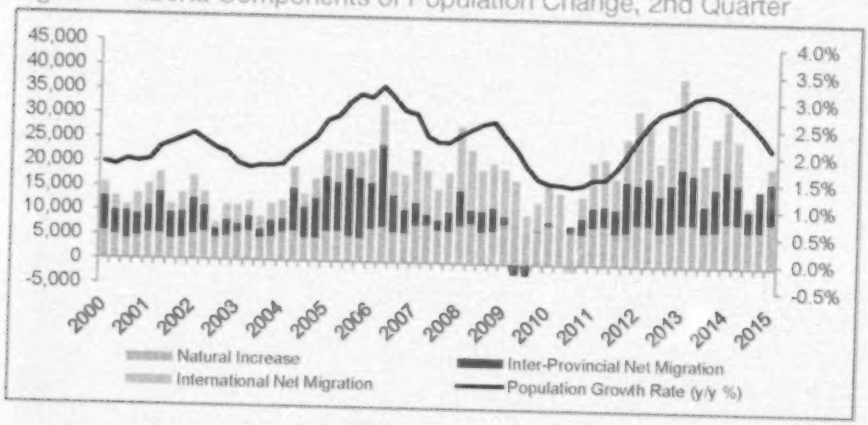
As of July 1, the province's population was 4,196,457 (Table 1), an increase of almost 21,000 over the previous quarter. Alberta led the provinces in population growth for the eighteenth straight quarter, expanding by 0.50%, twice the rate of Canada. Of this growth, natural increase contributed the largest amount with 0.22%, net interprovincial migration added 0.20%, and net international comprised the other 0.08%. At the national level, the only provinces that grew faster than the Canadian average (0.27%) this quarter were Alberta, Manitoba (0.30%), and Ontario (0.29%).

1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2015 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Jul	Canada	Alberta	1-Jul	Canada	Alberta
2010	34,005,274	3,732,573	2010	1.12%	1.45%
2011	34,342,780	3,790,191	2011	0.99%	1.54%
2012	34,751,476	3,888,552	2012	1.19%	2.60%
2013	35,155,499	4,007,748	2013	1.16%	3.07%
2014	35,543,658	4,120,897	2014	1.10%	2.82%
2015	35,851,774	4,196,457	2015	0.87%	1.83%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 2nd Quarter



Year-over-year, Alberta again led the provinces, growing by 1.83%, more than double the national average (0.87%)[2] (Table 2). Over the year, Alberta added 75,560 new residents. Despite solid gains and province-leading rates, Alberta's growth continued to moderate off recent highs; this was the lowest second quarter growth since 2010 and the lowest annual population gain since 2011 (Figure 1).

Migration

Migration continued to be a large contributor to Alberta's growth in the second quarter, although this quarter was more muted than the same quarter in the past few years. Migration added 11,472 new Albertans this quarter, compared with over 23,000 in the second quarter of 2014 and almost 30,000 in 2013. In the 2015 census year, total net

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015).

Table 2: Population of Provinces/ Territories as of July 1, 2015 and Growth Rates since July 1, 2014

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	35,851,774	0.87%
NL	527,756	-0.25%
PEI	146,447	0.19%
NS	943,002	0.07%
NB	753,871	-0.09%
QC	8,263,600	0.59%
ON	13,792,052	0.84%
MB	1,293,378	1.03%
SK	1,133,637	1.01%
AB	4,196,457	1.83%
BC	4,683,139	0.96%
YT	37,428	1.18%
NWT	44,088	0.25%
NVT	36,919	2.32%

migration added 41,979 residents, the lowest annual migration estimate since 2011.

Interprovincial migration

Despite the weakening economy, interprovincial migration to Alberta remained solid in the second quarter, although it continued to trend downward on a quarterly and annual basis. Alberta welcomed 8,264 net interprovincial migrants this quarter, with the largest net inflows coming from Ontario (3,439), Quebec (1,593), Manitoba (1,419), and Saskatchewan (1,369) (Map 1). Alberta gained people from each region of the country, except for British Columbia (-1,179).

Nationally, Alberta gained more than two times the net interprovincial migrants of British Columbia, the only other province with sizeable gains (3,974). Quebec (-5,349), Manitoba (-2,154), Ontario (-2,012) and Saskatchewan (-1,444) had the largest net losses (Table 3).

Net International Migration

Immigration in the second quarter was strong, however a surging net outflow of non-permanent residents (NPRs) weighed heavily on these gains. Net international migration welcomed 3,208 new residents between April and June, the smallest second quarter gains since the early 2000's and a quarter of the same period last year. The annual story was the same, with net international gains (13,058) being just over a quarter of last year's level.

The number of immigrants welcomed to Alberta this quarter remained robust, just off of last year's record (11,799) (Table 4). Alberta's ability to attract record shares of Canada's immigrants continued with this quarter's share of 16.6%; a new second quarter record. The lower number of immigrants Alberta received compared to last year was actually due to fewer immigrants moving to Canada this quarter.

Despite solid population gains through immigration, net international migration has been dramatically diminished by a net outflow of non-permanent residents (NPRs). Alberta lost a record number of NPRs this quarter (-7,711) and a staggering -21,215 NPRs in the 2014-2015 census year, the highest annual outflow on record. While outflows of NPRs were not unexpected given the changes to the TFW program and the large stock of people with expiring work permits, this was far and away the highest net outflow in the country. Alberta's annual net outflow was almost ten times greater than Saskatchewan's, the only other province to experience sizeable annual outflows, and double Canada's net outflow (-10,334).

It should be noted that although large, this is not the greatest annual NPR net loss on record for a province. Between 1991 and 1993, Ontario lost an average of about -37,000 NPRs each year.

Natural increase

Natural increase continues to be a strong driver of population growth in the province. In fact, this quater was the highest on record for the number of babies born. In the second quarter of 2015, Alberta experienced a natural increase of 9,284, the result of 15,219 births and 5,935 deaths. Nationally, Alberta had the highest natural growth rate of all the provinces (0.22%). With Alberta's slowing total net migration, natural increase is becoming increasingly important as a driver of Alberta's population growth, accounting for an ascending share of Alberta's growth profile.

Population structure

In the past decade, Alberta has settled well over half a million migrants, a large proportion of them are young adults drawn here by economic opportunities. With larger numbers of young adults moving through life course events and having children, it is not unexpected that the number of births is increasing. Over the last decade, Alberta has had about 500,000 births.

Over the past three years, population aging has not been observed in Alberta, but this year saw the median age increase once again. Surging migration levels held the median age steady at 36.0 between 2012 and 2014, but with 2015 migration levels being roughly half that of the previous year, the median age increased slightly to 36.2. Amongst the provinces, Alberta's population has the highest proportion in working ages (15-64) at 70.0% and the lowest proportion of seniors aged 65+ (11.6%). This differs from Canada overall, where those in the working ages comprised 67.8%, and seniors made up 16.1% of the total population. Although aging, Alberta still remains the youngest province in the country.

Contact

Lisa Zaporzan 780-427-8891

Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta April 1 to June 30, 2015

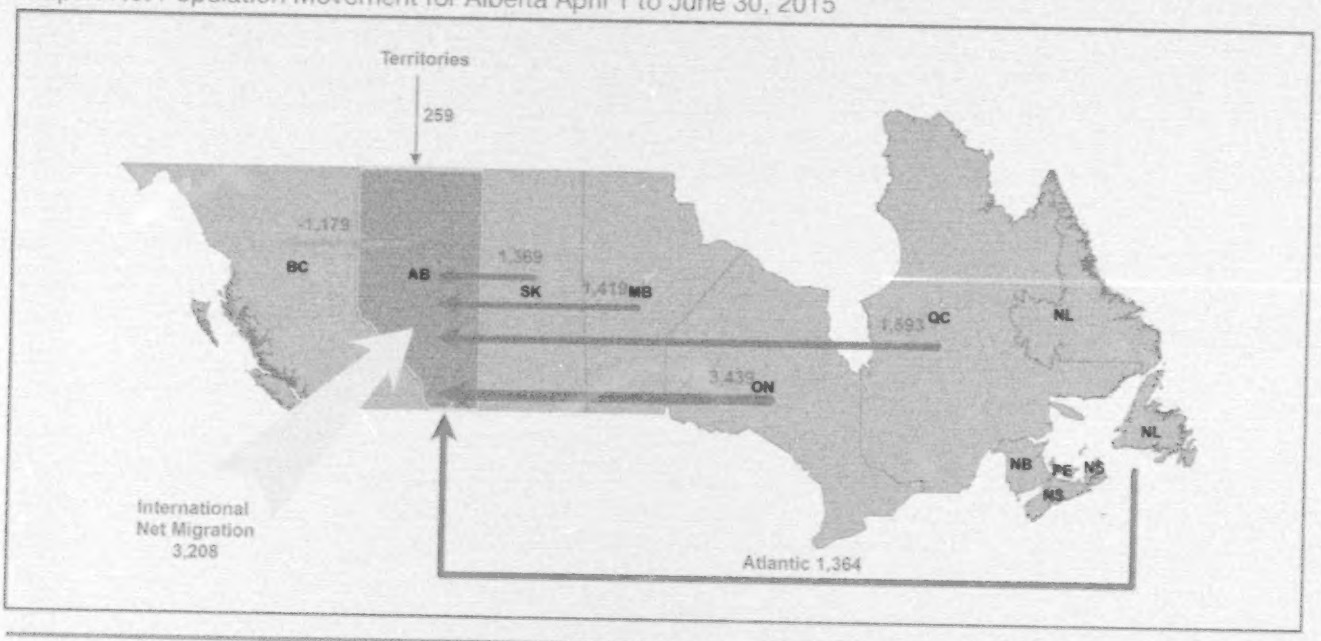


Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants April 1 to June 30, 2015

Origin \ Destination	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
NL	0	68	603	163	75	803	52	87	1,354	213	0	0	39
PEI	36	0	223	97	61	346	15	4	429	117	0	33	0
NS	286	159	0	676	219	2,047	126	173	1,612	600	47	97	120
NB	111	103	999	0	408	1,118	59	79	1,099	302	0	39	16
QC	81	54	368	439	0	6,520	202	290	2,395	1,224	80	47	73
ON	676	393	2,164	1,027	3,756	0	1,458	1,396	8,714	5,620	241	145	221
MB	108	0	102	43	101	1,679	0	764	2,355	1,336	43	5	34
SK	36	16	144	76	116	1,321	652	0	4,077	1,541	29	55	92
AB	1,248	168	1,022	692	802	5,275	936	2,708	0	9,931	96	108	43
BC	183	38	622	197	748	4,360	857	1,121	8,752	0	248	98	78
YT	19	13	9	0	18	65	40	34	158	255	0	4	11
NWT	65	0	115	20	11	105	13	51	307	121	45	0	21
NVT	93	7	59	13	109	160	6	4	41	16	0	36	0

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
IN	2,742	1,019	6,430	3,443	6,424	23,799	4,416	6,711	31,293	21,276	829	667	748
OUT	3,457	1,361	6,162	4,333	11,773	25,811	6,570	8,155	23,029	17,302	626	874	544
NET	-515	-342	268	-890	-5,349	-2,012	-2,154	-1,444	8,264	3,974	203	-207	204

Q2 2015	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
Outflow to AB	1,354	429	1,612	1,099	2,395	8,714	2,355	4,077	0	8,752	158	307	41
Inflow from AB	1,248	168	1,022	692	802	5,275	936	2,708	0	9,931	96	108	43
Net Flow to AB	106	261	590	407	1,593	3,439	1,419	1,369	0	-1,179	62	199	-2

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrams	Returning Emigrants	Net	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2010-11													
Jul-Sep	16,766	16,767	-1	9,485	-1,792	2,165	710	1,942	6,760	6,759	13,218	5,110	14,867
Oct-Dec	12,428	11,098	1,330	6,667	-6,610	1,511	475	868	-1,061	269	12,222	5,438	7,053
Jan-Mar	15,768	12,608	3,160	5,916	-309	1,607	471	852	4,381	7,541	12,203	5,582	14,162
Apr-Jun	19,013	15,059	3,954	8,389	1,460	1,459	628	1,569	9,331	13,285	13,210	5,176	21,319
Total	63,975	55,532	8,443	30,457	-7,251	6,742	2,284	5,231	19,411	27,854	50,853	21,306	57,401
2011-12													
Jul-Sep	22,147	18,189	3,958	8,970	2,665	3,005	675	1,840	9,795	13,753	13,404	5,117	22,040
Oct-Dec	15,797	10,901	4,896	7,690	21	1,613	549	800	6,349	11,245	12,223	5,358	18,110
Jan-Mar	22,632	12,201	10,431	7,520	2,568	1,554	531	792	8,795	19,226	12,737	5,711	26,252
Apr-Jun	26,008	17,641	8,367	10,386	5,421	1,689	531	1,444	15,031	23,398	13,866	5,305	31,959
Total	86,584	58,932	27,652	34,566	10,675	7,861	2,286	4,876	39,970	67,622	52,230	21,491	98,361
2012-13													
Jul-Sep	25,552	15,767	9,785	9,086	3,720	2,823	663	1,953	11,273	21,058	13,851	5,320	29,589
Oct-Dec	15,730	8,026	7,704	9,103	-1,321	1,476	532	740	6,514	14,218	12,653	5,575	21,296
Jan-Mar	21,438	11,692	9,746	8,095	5,860	1,537	545	703	12,576	22,322	13,182	5,941	29,563
Apr-Jun	29,833	18,470	11,363	10,582	8,803	1,657	545	1,351	18,534	29,897	14,368	5,517	38,748
Total	92,553	53,955	38,598	36,866	17,062	7,493	2,285	4,747	48,897	87,495	54,054	22,353	119,196
2013-14													
Jul-Sep	25,511	15,277	10,234	9,156	6,166	2,853	663	1,953	13,759	23,993	14,373	5,536	32,830
Oct-Dec	16,387	10,900	5,487	8,806	846	1,492	532	740	8,368	13,855	13,138	5,797	21,196
Jan-Mar	22,290	13,522	8,768	10,351	1,434	1,554	545	703	10,389	19,157	13,676	6,173	26,660
Apr-Jun	31,613	20,720	10,893	12,753	522	1,675	545	1,351	12,406	23,299	14,891	5,727	32,463
Total	95,801	60,419	35,382	41,066	8,968	7,574	2,285	4,747	44,922	80,304	56,078	23,233	113,149
2014-15													
Jul-Sep	23,192	15,055	8,137	10,283	172	2,869	662	1,953	8,877	17,014	14,874	5,745	26,143
Oct-Dec	15,269	11,031	4,238	9,150	-7,032	1,500	532	740	826	5,064	13,538	6,012	12,590
Jan-Mar	23,944	15,662	8,282	8,197	-6,644	1,564	545	703	147	8,429	14,046	6,404	16,071
Apr-Jun	31,293	23,029	8,264	11,799	-7,711	1,686	545	1,351	3,208	11,472	15,219	5,935	20,756
Total	93,698	64,777	28,921	39,429	-21,215	7,619	2,284	4,747	13,058	41,979	57,677	24,096	75,560